3rd February 1925]

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. Member call for information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not quite understand what the suggestion is. If the police have recorded them as crimes they must, I suppose, be taking proceedings."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Seeing there has been considerable delay in any proceedings if they have been recorded, I suggest that information may be called for on this point."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If any person has been assaulted it is quite open for him to lodge a complaint. I imagine that the fact is that the good sense of the persons concerned has prevented them from going to court."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to clause (c), are the Government satisfied that such unlawful crimes have been properly dealt with ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Does my hon. Friend ask me if I am satisfied ? "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know if proper steps have been taken on those persons who have molested or misbehaved with the depressed classes."

Rao Bahadur O. M. NARAYANAN NAMBUDRIPAD :—" May I know if it is a fact that the Government Order to prevent further breach of peace was not given effect to ? "

Water-supply to the depressed classes of Minakshivalasu village, Coimbatore.

*2 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 573 answered at the meeting of the 10th October 1924 regarding the water-supply to the depressed classes of Minakshivalasu village, Coimbatore, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the complete report that has already been called for on the table of the Council ?

A.—The report of the Collector of Coimbatore is placed on the table.*

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the main question may I know whether and if so why the village officers took part in distributing pamphlets in order to bring the matter to such excesses of ill-feeling between one party and another ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I do not again quite follow the hon. Member. I do not see any evidence of the village officers taking any part."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" In the latter part of the report it is stated that 'on the whole I find that there is nothing to show that the village officers of Poppini have, in any way, used their official influence to the detriment of the Adi-Dravidas in question'. Sir, it is certain that they have taken part in the distribution of pamphlets. I want to know whether these village officials are allowed to distribute pamphlets."

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 75-76 infra.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I want to know to what passage my hon. Friend is referring me."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know whether the Government are aware if such distribution took place and if so whether they are allowed to take any part in the same "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government have no information at present."

Emigration.

Recruitment of labour to Assam.

*3 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement in the letter of the Government of Assam to the Government of Madras, dated 1st August 1924, in which a statement occurs ' that it is possible that the men were of an unsuitable type for recruitment to Assam ' and whether the matter is being investigated by the Government;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to a statement contained in the letter of the 18th August ' that some of the immigrants were not of the labouring class ' and the reasons why this happened; and

(c) whether the figures given in the report appended to the letter of the Government of Assam, dated the 9th of October 1924, as regards wages are correct and, if so, whether the wages are sufficient to keep body and soul together?

A.—(a) & (b) It is a fact, as explained in the course of a recent debate in this House, that some of the labourers who went to Assam from the Ceded districts were of an unsuitable type, inasmuch as they were not accustomed to agricultural work. The Assam Labour Board is alive to the desirability of avoiding a recurrence of this incident. The cases however where the recruiting agency were deceived into passing such men were comparatively few and the great bulk of the labourers appear to have been men suited for labour on the estates. No further investigation on this particular point is being made.

(c) From the paper referred to by the hon. Member himself it will be seen that the rates, Rs. 7 for a male and Rs. 6 for a female labourer, represent the amount paid when the labourer does only the minimum daily task, occupying a few hours in the day. Anyone who chooses to do a full day's work, such as he would do in his own home, receives much more. It has already been stated in this House that in some gardens at least Rs. 7 for a man is certainly a living wage, more particularly when he can buy his rice at considerably below market rates.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I ask the hon. the Home Member whether to his knowledge any steps have been taken, apart from their being alive to the fact that a great bulk of them seem to have been men unsuited for labour on estates ? "